1. (Amended)   A method for modeling ~~planning~~ multiple tasks for multiple users comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into said multiple tasks;

activating a current ~~selecting a~~ tasking horizon, said tasking horizon comprising one of a plurality of time frames over which said multiple tasks can be completed;

selecting a language ~~at least two verbs~~ for at least one of said multiple tasks;

receiving an actual ~~predicted start~~ date for said at least one of said multiple tasks;

receiving an estimated ~~actual start~~ date for said at least one task;

calculating a first negative churn if said received estimated date is created in or moved into said current tasking horizon;

calculating a first positive churn if said estimated date is deleted or moved out of said current tasking horizon;

calculating a second positive churn if said received estimated date exists in said current tasking horizon and said received actual date is moved out of or is created outside of said current tasking horizon;

calculating a third positive churn is said received actual date is moved out of said current tasking horizon and an accompanying received estimated date is not in said current tasking horizon;

calculating a second negative churn when said received actual date is created in or is moved into said current tasking horizon and said received estimated date is not in said current tasking horizon; and

receiving language ~~one of said at least two verbs~~ that corresponds to said actual ~~start~~ date, wherein a ~~said~~ verb describes a reason for said actual ~~start~~ date and for said churn.~~;~~

~~comparing said predicted start date with said actual start date; [and]~~

~~computing churn of said at least one task;~~

7. (Amended)   The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

comparing said tasks of said project to previously performed tasks;

extracting previously performed task completion data, said data including previous churn data and risk factor data; and computing an expected task completion time based at least in part on said previously performed task completion data.

8. (Amended)   The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

comparing said tasks of said project to previously performed tasks;

extracting a risk factor associated with said previously performed tasks;

and computing [an] a new risk factor based at least in part on said extracted risk factor.

9. (Amended)   A method for modeling planning tasks comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into multiple tasks, wherein there is at least a first task and a second task;

selecting a current tasking horizon from a plurality of potential event horizons representing a plurality of timeframes;

selecting at least two verbs for said first task;

selecting at least two verbs for said second task;

assigning said first task to a first task assignment station;

assigning said second task to a second task assignment station;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted completion data for said first task from said first task assignment station;

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receiving a predicted start date and a predicted completion date a for said second task from said second task assignment station;

receiving an actual start date and a <u>first</u> verb for said first task;

receiving an actual start date and a <u>second</u> verb for said second task;

computing churn of said first task;

computing churn of said second task;

computing a risk factor for said first task <u>based on said first verb</u>; and

computing a risk factor for said second [factor] <u>task based on said second verb</u>.

10. (Amended) An apparatus for <u>task</u> modeling planning [task] comprising:

a management module for breaking a project into tasks, selecting a tasking horizon and for assigning at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks;

a task assignment station for receiving said at least one task and for entering a predicted start date for said at least one task and for entering an actual start date;

wherein said management module and said task assignment station are operationally connected and wherein said management module receives <u>said</u> predicted start date and said actual start date and computes a churn <u>and assigns a risk factor to said task based on at least one of said verbs, wherein said at least one verb describes a reason for said churn</u>.

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising modifying said computed risk factor based on a subsequent churn value.

12. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said method results in a reduction of said churn.

13. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said actual dates comprise an actual start date and an actual stop date.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said received estimated dates comprise an estimated start date and an estimated stop date.

15. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising assigning a risk factor to a second task which is dependent upon a first task.

16. (New) . The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said second task is dependent on said first task.

17. (New) A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into tasks;

selecting a tasking horizon;

selecting at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks, each of said verbs is task dependent;

receiving a predicted start date and a predicted stop date for said at least one task;

receiving an actual start date and an actual stop date for said at least one task;

receiving one of said at least two verbs that corresponds to said actual start and stop dates, wherein said verb describes at least one reason for said actual start and stop dates;

comparing said predicted start and stop dates with said actual start and stop dates;

computing churn of said at least one task; and

reviewing said churn in view of said at least one verb, and assigning a risk factor to said task based on said review.

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18. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said risk factor is equal to a percentage of the time between said predicted start and stop dates.

19. (New)   The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said previous risk factor is task dependent.

20. (New)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said apparatus classifies said churn as positive churn or negative churn.

21. (New)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said apparatus is utilized in a churn monitoring program to reduce said churn.

22. (New)   An apparatus for task modeling comprising:

a management module for breaking a project into tasks, selecting a tasking horizon and for assigning at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks;

a task assignment station for receiving said at least one task and for entering a predicted start and stop date for said at least one task and for entering an actual start and stop date;

wherein said management module and said task assignment station are operationally connected and wherein said management module receives said predicted start and stop dates and said actual start and stop dates and computes a churn and assigns a risk factor to said task based on at least one of said verbs having a reason associated therewith used to describe said churn.

23. (New)   A method for modeling tasks comprising the steps of:

breaking a project into a plurality of tasks;

selecting a tasking horizon;

selecting at least two verbs for at least one of said tasks;

receiving a predicted start date for said at least one task;

receiving an actual start date for said at least one task;

receiving one of said at least two verbs that corresponds to said actual start date, wherein said verb describes a reason for said actual start date;

comparing said predicted start date with said actual start date; [and]

computing churn of said at least one task;

computing a risk factor based at least in part on at least one of said computed churn and said received verb.

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